

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 077071
ORIGIN SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 FS-01 ABF-01 AGRE-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
HEW-04 HUD-01 INR-07 INT-05 LOC-01 NASA-01
NSAE-00 NSF-01 OMB-01 USIA-06 OES-06 TRSE-00 /059 R

DRAFTED BY SMI/OIP:LMAKEPEACE:FCB
APPROVED BY OES/APTBMP:WJWALSH,III
SMI/OIP:KBSCHMERTZ
NEA/INS:ATHIBAUT (BY PHONE)
SMI/SRF: PPERKINS
SMI:GROBINSON (BY PHONE)
SMI/MNH:FRFOSBERG (BY PHONE)
-----070209Z 093639 /75-62

P 062255Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077071

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OSCI, TBIO, CE

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN/SFCP - CLOSURE OF PROJECT TO REVISE
TRIMEN'S HANDBOOK OF FLORA AND TERMINATION OF F.H. POPHAM,
SMITHSONIAN REPRESENTATIVE

PASS VICE CONSUL ALAN DAHL

1. SMITHSONIAN BECOMING CONCERNED AT POSSIBILITY LOCAL
PROCEDURES FOR CONCLUDING DR. RAYMOND FOSBERG'S FLORA
RESEARCH PROJECT MAY JEOPARDIZE FRUITFUL AND CORDIAL RELA-
TIONS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION AND
GOVERNMENT AND SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY OF SRI LANKA. IN
PARTICULAR, SMITHSONIAN DISMAYED BY RECENT LETTERS FROM F.H.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 077071

POPHAM, SMITHSONIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN SRI LANKA, INDICATING
HE MAY BE LIABLE FOR RETROACTIVE INCOME TAX PAYMENTS BEFORE
BEING GRANTED PERMANENT EXIT PERMIT. PAYMENT OF INCOME TAX,
IN ADDITION TO ANTICIPATED TERMINATION COSTS, WOULD
VIRTUALLY EXHAUST PROJECT RUPEE FUNDS AND MAKE IMPOSSIBLE
ANY REMAINING FIELD WORK AS WELL AS PUBLICATION IN SRI
LANKA OF VALUABLE RESEARCH RESULTS.

2. POPHAM STATES IN MARCH 13 LETTER THAT DAHL AND HE WENT TO SEE TAX ASSESSOR AND "WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE INTERVIEW. SHE SEEMED TO RECOGNIZE EXISTENCE OF THE AGREEMENT;" THAT IS, AGREEMENT BETWEEN SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON ESTABLISHING FLORA PROJECT. IN SMITHSONIAN VIEW THIS SEEMS TO IMPLY POPHAM MAY BE REGARDED AS IMMUNE TO INCOME TAX. (NOTE: AGREEMENT IS DATED OCTOBER 29, 1967. THIS IS BELIEVED TO BE TYPING ERROR AND CORRECT DATE SHOULD BE 1968. SEE COVERING LETTER DECEMBER 17, 1968 FROM VICE CONSUL CORN.)

3. POPHAM IN MARCH 25 LETTER REPORTS TURQUAND YOUNGS, CHARTED ACCOUNTANTS WHOM HE CONSULTED, ESTIMATE AMOUNT (IF ANY APPLICABLE) OF HIS INCOME LIABILITY FOR 1970/71 TO 1977/78 TO BE: RUPEES 5,206; 11,846; 54,077; 61,721; 65,385; 108,126; 44,650; AND 51,650. TOTAL 402,661 RUPEES.

4. SMITHSONIAN RECOGNIZES THAT NO GSL REPRESENTATIVE HAS FORMALLY STATED ANY TAX LIABILITY FOR POPHAM EXISTS, MUCH LESS SUGGESTED ITS MAGNITUDE. AS FIRST STEP, SMITHSONIAN REQUESTS EMBASSY VIEWS ON LIKELIHOOD LEVY WILL BE IMPOSED. WHILE AWARE THAT TURQUAND YOUNGS ESTIMATE IS UNOFFICIAL AND ADVISORY, SMITHSONIAN WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY INTERPRETATION OF TAX FIGURES WHICH EQUAL EIGHTY PERCENT OF POPHAM'S INCOME FOR PERIOD.

5. SMITHSONIAN OF COURSE HOPES MAJOR FLORA PROJECT CAN BE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 077071

CONCLUDED TO SATISFACTION OF GSL AND SCIENTISTS WITHOUT ANY TAX CLAIM. HOWEVER, IF CLAIM APPEARS LIKELY, AND IN INTEREST OF HEADING OFF FORMAL PRESENTATION BY TAX AUTHORITIES, SMITHSONIAN IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER SENDING ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL TO COLOMBO TO DISCUSS ISSUE WITH GSL. EMBASSY'S VIEWS SOLICITED ON ADVISABILITY SUCH STEP.

6. SMITHSONIAN REQUESTS EMBASSY AND POPHAM TO SUSPEND IMMEDIATELY ALL EFFORTS TO DISPOSE OF ANY VEHICLES UNDER POPHAM'S CONTROL.

7. URGENT REPLY REQUESTED SINCE POPHAM DESIRES LEAVE SRI LANKA FOR WASHINGTON CONSULTATION IN JUNE. POPHAM DEFINITELY PLANS RETURN TO HANDLE NECESSARY STEPS LEADING TO FLORA PROJECT TERMINATION BEFORE DEPARTING SRI LANKA PERMANENTLY.
VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC GRANTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), INCOME TAXES, DEBT REPAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE077071
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LMAKEPEACE:FCB
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770120-1086
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770480/aaaacsdu.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a70954a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SMI
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2878012
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SMITHSONIAN/SFCP - CLOSURE OF PROJECT TO REVISE TRIMEN'S HANDBOOK OF FLORA AND TERMINATION OF F.H. POPHAM, SMITHSONIAN REPRESENTATIVE
TAGS: OSCI, TBIO, EFIN, CE, US, SMI, (FOSBERG, RAYMOND)
To: COLOMBO
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a70954a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009